

## United States Senate

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

May 12, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Office of the Administrator, 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

I am writing to request that the Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) issue fair and consistent compliance requirements for all carbon black manufacturing plants as part of EPA's New Source Review investigations and until then, delay current requirements on Cabot Corporation's carbon black facilities located in Louisiana.

An American chemicals and performance materials company, Cabot provides employment for hundreds of Louisianans, spending roughly \$50 million each year on wages, goods, and services in my state. The company also employs many more hard working men and women at plants in Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Michigan, and Massachusetts.

As you know, during the Obama administration, the EPA issued new requirements on all U.S. carbon black producers, including Cabot, under the Clean Air Act. Cabot agreed to these changes with the understanding that the entire industry would be held to the same standards and compliance deadlines. On November 29, 2013, EPA stated, *"This settlement will be the first settlement reached pursuant to the EPA's NSR investigations of all carbon black manufacturing plants in the United States, part of the EPA's national enforcement initiative aimed at reducing air pollution from the largest sources<sup>1</sup>."*

I am told, however, that while EPA reached consent decrees with Cabot and Continental Carbon, the same has not occurred for other U.S. competitors. As a result, while Cabot and Continental Carbon are incurring the costs to comply, other companies are not. The actions of the previous Administration appears to create an uneven playing field with winners and losers and seems inconsistent with EPA's prior actions. Inconsistent application of federal laws would disproportionately impact those companies cooperating with EPA, impacting hundreds of jobs in Louisiana and elsewhere.

As a result, my constituents are seeking injunctive relief until EPA has issued compliance requirements for the entire industry.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/cabot-corporation-clean-air-act-settlement>

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response as we work to protect American jobs and the environment.

Sincerely,

*Bill Cassidy, M.D.*

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Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator